

To: This Week @ EPA[epanews@epa.gov]
From: This Week @ EPA
Sent: Mon 11/6/2017 5:03:10 PM
Subject: This Week @ EPA - November 6, 2017

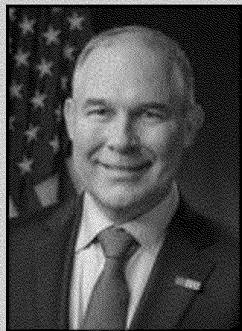


November 6, 2017

Banner photograph taken by Jeremy Bauer, Region 9, at Big Sur, California.

[Senior Leadership Message](#) | [Hot Topics](#) | [Key Dates](#) | [Video Spotlight](#) | [Health & Wellness](#) | [IT Corner](#)

Senior Leadership Message



Colleagues,

I'm honored to have this opportunity to say a few words about our nation's heroes as we enter into this week's Veterans Day observance. Our country's success is founded on the sacrifice of generations of people who have served. This Nov. 11, we honor and thank the millions of veterans for their commitment to defending our great nation.

We don't always think about it, but today – and every day – our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen serve to protect our way of life. Troops are presently deployed across the globe to combat terrorism and to further peace and stability. Also serving are the family members of these brave Americans.

Our veterans' families also deserve our collective thanks. Their sacrifices, their support, and their commitment strengthens not only every service member, but our nation as a whole.

Lastly, I want to thank our EPA employees who are veterans. Currently, there are nearly 1,200 veterans working at EPA. It's a true honor to work beside these national heroes who continue their public service with the agency.

Please pause a moment this Veterans Day to recognize the hard-working service members of our military and to honor those heroes who have served throughout the ages to defend our freedom.

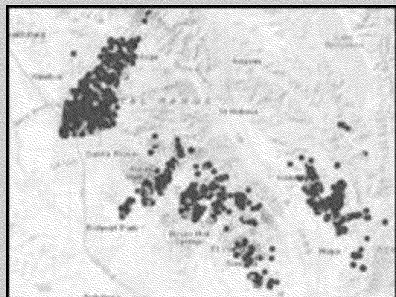
Be sure to join us to commemorate our veterans during our annual [Veterans Day event](#) on Nov. 8, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. If you are not able to participate in person, you can view the event on EPAtv.

To all veterans and their families, thank you for your courage, your dedication, and your commitment. We salute you for your sacrifices.

Administrator Scott Pruitt

Hot Topics

Story map highlights EPA's wildfires response



EPA continues to work with local, state, and federal partners to respond to the Northern California fires. EPA is leading the survey, collection, and disposal of household hazardous waste at nearly 7,000 residential and commercial parcels affected by the fires in Sonoma and Napa counties.

The work of agency employees allows other state and federal agencies to remove ash and other non-hazardous debris, so that the rebuilding process in these communities can begin. The story of EPA's response to the Northern California fires is captured on the Northern California Wildfires [response site](#) and [story map site](#), which brings the agency's response to life through maps and descriptions.

This story map presents information on several components of the response effort, including the:

- location of nearly 7,000 affected properties;
- status of EPA's work in Sonoma County; and
- status of EPA's work in Napa County.

Many thanks to the following team members who helped to develop the story map:

- [REDACTED] Incident Command Post Situation Unit Leader James Lopez-Baird (Region 10) and Environmental Unit Leader Karl Banks (Region 9)
- [REDACTED] Public Information Officers Bill Glenn, Rusty Harris-Bishop and Kelly Zito (Region 9), and Mark MacIntyre (Region 10)
- [REDACTED] ICP Deputy Incident Commander Marty McComb (Region 8) and Incident Commander Steve Calanog (Region 9); and
- [REDACTED] EPA's On-Scene Coordinators, Community Involvement Coordinators, and the multitude of Response Support Corps staff who dedicated themselves to supporting the North Bay communities in their recovery efforts.

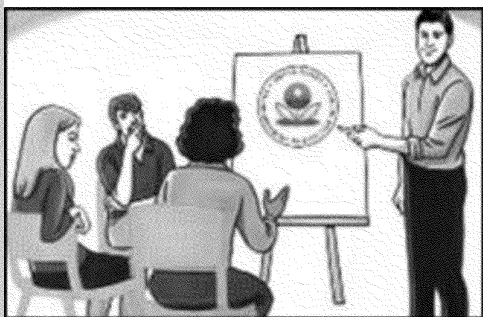
Two Clean Air Act settlements announced



On Oct. 31, EPA, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the states of Colorado and Louisiana announced two important Clean Air Act settlements – one with [ExxonMobil](#) and one with [PDC Energy](#) – that will reduce emissions of harmful air pollution and improve the companies' compliance with the law.

ExxonMobil will install and operate air pollution control and monitoring technology to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and benzene at five petrochemical manufacturing facilities in Texas and three in Louisiana. PDC Energy will improve operations and maintenance practices, monitoring, and inspections to reduce VOC emissions from its oil and gas exploration and production activities in the Denver area.

New facilitation and mediation resources

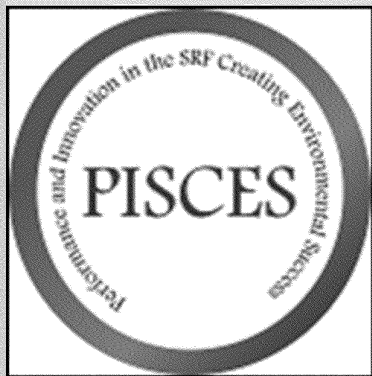


Have you ever wished that a facilitator could magically appear to rescue you (and your colleagues) from a painful meeting?

At EPA we regularly use facilitation and mediation to support better communication and decision-making in a variety of situations. We use them to manage workplace conflict, create LEAN work processes, mediate complex environmental conflicts, facilitate public involvement, and make our meetings more effective. Still, many at EPA don't know that these services exist or know how to access them.

In order to raise a broader awareness of these services, the agency has added [new resources to the One EPA Workplace site](#), including a brief [whiteboard video](#). These allow you to learn more about facilitation and mediation, locate services around the agency, and better understand how these services are used to support EPA's work to protect human health and the environment. Check them out and spread the word.

Excellence and innovation recognized in clean water infrastructure



Last week, within the Office of Water's (OW) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF), the Performance and Innovation in the SRF Creating Environmental Success (PISCES) program recognized 28 water quality treatment projects for excellence and innovation. Honored projects include large wastewater infrastructure projects to small decentralized and agriculture projects.

The CWSRF is a federal-state partnership that provides communities a permanent, independent source of low-cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects. Over the past 30 years, CWSRF programs have provided more than \$125 billion in financing for water quality infrastructure.

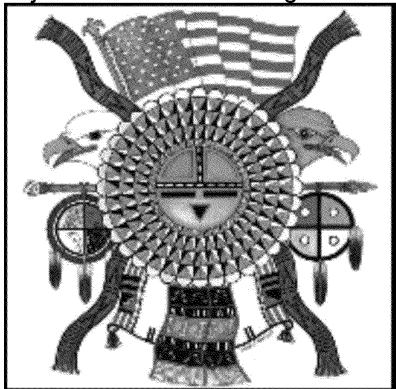
The PISCES program recognized projects by state or local governments, public utilities, and private entities across three categories: Exceptional; Honorable Mention; and Recognized Excellence. The Exceptional projects were:

- Arkansas: Sewer Service Line Replacement Program - Little Rock Wastewater Utility
- Delaware: NVF Yorklyn Site Wetland Project - DNREC Parks & WHS
- Ohio: Howard Storage Basin-North Hill Separation Project - City of Akron
- Rhode Island: RIAC Glycol Recovery System - RI Airport Corporation
- Washington: On-Site Sewage System Loan Program - Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

To see the full list of 2017 awardees and to learn more about these projects, please see [the PISCES website](#).

Native American Heritage Month observance

Please join the Federal Triangle Partnership as we celebrate Native American Heritage Month on Thursday, Nov. 16,



from 10-11 a.m. EST, in the Department of Commerce Auditorium (1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC) or via EPAtv.

This year's theme is **"Standing Together."** We are honored to have as our keynote speaker Spike Bighorn, who currently serves as the Associate Deputy Director of the Office of Indian Services for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Two remote viewing possibilities:

1. EPAtv broadcast Nov. 16, at 2 p.m. EST.

Please remember that EPAtv broadcasts are available using only Internet Explorer while on the EPA network and cannot be accessed remotely.

2. EPAtv On-demand posting after 12 p.m. EST, on Nov. 17.

This is the expected time of availability, but it is subject to change.

People needing reasonable accommodations should contact Kristin P. Tropp at (202) 559-0006.

This event is hosted by the Federal Triangle Partnership, consisting of four federal agencies: Department of Commerce, Agency for International Development, Customs and Border Protection, and EPA.

Please see the [agency calendar entry](#) for full details on this event.  We look forward to seeing

you there.

Key Dates



Click on each event below to get more details.

Click on the “Add to Calendar” button to add an event to your Outlook calendar.

If you see a log-in screen, please click on your EPA email, or if prompted, enter your email and network password.

Happening This Week:

Nov. 7: Bloomberg BNA Training: Environment & Energy Report

ADD TO CALENDAR

Nov. 8: Lotus Notes Migration Preparation Day

ADD TO CALENDAR

Nov. 8: Veteran's Day celebration

ADD TO CALENDAR

Coming Soon:

Nov. 13: FEHB Open Season (Nov. 13 to Dec. 11)

ADD TO CALENDAR

Nov. 15: 508 compliance class: Introduction to Accessible PDFs

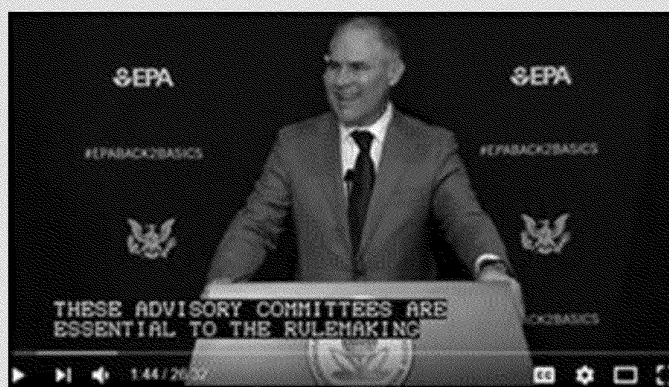
ADD TO CALENDAR

Video Spotlight


Ensuring Independence, Geographic Diversity & Integrity in EPA Science Committees


Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a new directive to ensure the independence, integrity, and geographic diversity of EPA Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) members. The directive includes the requirement that no member of any of EPA's federal advisory committees be currently in receipt of EPA grants, either as principal investigator or co-investigator, or in a position that otherwise would reap substantial direct benefit from an EPA grant.

The Administrator subsequently announced his plan to appoint highly qualified experts and scientists to serve on three FACS: the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC), the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee (CASAC), and the Science Advisory Board (SAB). Experts throughout the environmental stakeholder community will be appointed, including from NGOs, academia, industry, and state, tribal and local officials.



Video length: 26:32

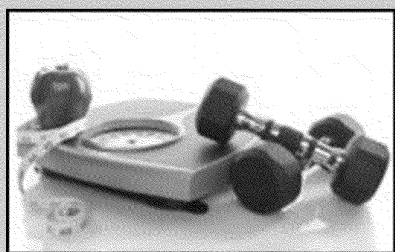
Nov. 16: Native American Heritage Month event 

Nov. 28: Bloomberg BNA Training: Environment & Energy Report 

Health & Wellness

IT Corner




Diabetes Awareness Month



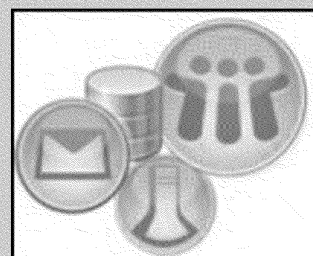
Diabetes is a chronic disease characterized by elevated blood glucose levels, which increases the risk of developing heart disease or having a stroke. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 29 million Americans are currently living with diabetes, and 8 million of these cases are undiagnosed.

Visit the American Diabetes Association website to take an [online diabetes risk assessment](#). If you score “at risk” for diabetes, follow up with your personal physician for a blood glucose screening. You should also visit your personal physician at least once a year to monitor your health.

Everyone can take the following steps to prevent diabetes:

-  Eat a healthy, balanced diet.
-  Stay physically active.
-  Maintain a healthy weight.

Lotus Notes Migration Preparation Day is Nov. 8



The Office of Environmental Information (OEI) has designated Nov. 8 as **Lotus Notes Migration Preparation Day**. In preparation for the termination of agency-wide access to Lotus Notes, OEI encourages employees to take advantage of this designated day to review and clean up their Lotus Notes mailboxes.

With some exceptions, employees will not be able to access their email from within Lotus Notes after Dec. 31, 2017. In calendar year 2018, OEI will begin migrating employees' Lotus Notes emails dating from January

- Get regular blood glucose screenings.

For more information, visit the [Diabetes page](#) on the [EPA's Health and Wellness](#) site.

2007 or later into an Outlook archive folder, where each employee will be able to access them easily. Email generated before Jan. 1, 2007, will not migrate, except those required for litigation hold or other preservation obligations.

OEI is coordinating with programs and regions to ensure that people who need access to Lotus Notes databases and other applications after Dec. 31, 2017, can do so. Be sure to read the [Lotus Notes Migration Preparation Day news post](#) to get more details and resource links about specific aspects of the migration.

We would love to hear your feedback about this newsletter. Please contact us at:

Ex. 6

Looking for previous editions of the Newsletter? Go to the [Newsletter Archive](#)

To: Benton, Donald[benton.donald@epa.gov]
From: U.S. EPA Media Relations
Sent: Mon 6/26/2017 11:25:57 PM
Subject: EPA to Accept Nominations for Science Boards

CONTACT:
press@epa.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 26, 2017

EPA to Accept Nominations for Science Boards

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced that a notice will be published in the Federal Register, tomorrow, June 27, seeking nominations for the Science Advisory Board (SAB) and Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC). Nominations will be accepted for 30 days following publication of the Federal Register notice. Members serve at the request of the Administrator and are carefully selected for their scientific expertise and independence.

“These boards play an important role at EPA by providing independent advice based on sound science in support of the agency’s mission, and I would like to thank all board members for their service,” **said Administrator Pruitt.** “I strongly encourage scientific viewpoints from a full range of stakeholders in order to achieve balanced scientific advice.”

In 1978, Congress directed EPA to establish an SAB to provide independent scientific advice to the Administrator on science that underlies agency rulemaking.

As spelled out by the Clean Air Act, CASAC has specific statutory duties, including advice related to air quality standards like the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). A recent Government Accountability Organization [report](#) found that CASAC has never provided advice on adverse social, economic or energy effects related to NAAQS because it was not asked to play that role. Moving forward, EPA will ensure the CASAC addresses this serious deficiency and fulfills its complete duties, as spelled out by legislative statute.

“This announcement is an opportunity to provide clear direction for the future of these boards, and we welcome all qualified candidates with a variety of expertise and backgrounds to apply,” **said Administrator Pruitt.**

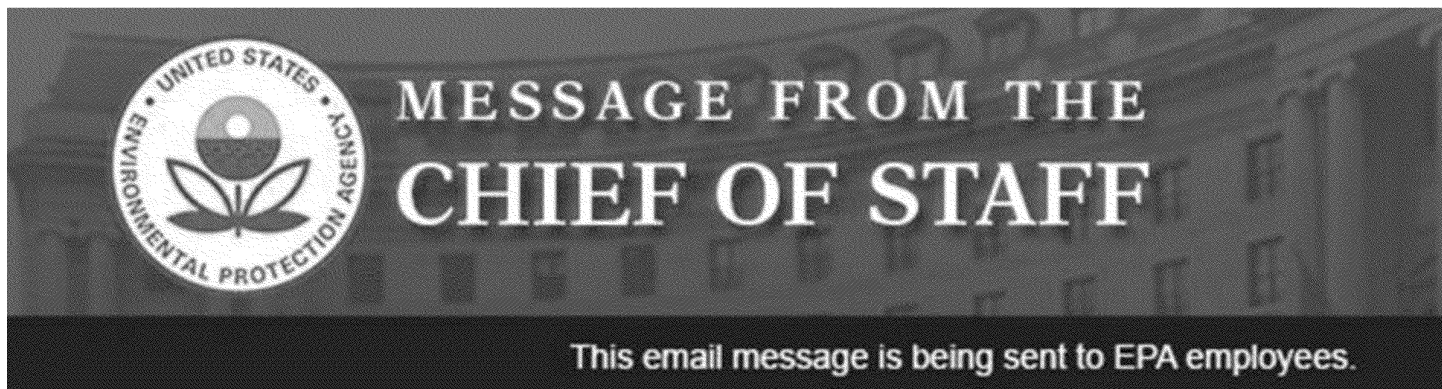
Nominations can be submitted on each board’s respective website.

To learn more about SAB and submit a nomination, visit: www.epa.gov/sab

To learn more about CASAC and submit a nomination, visit: www.epa.gov/casac

If you would rather not receive future communications from Environmental Protection Agency, let us know by clicking [here](#).
Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460 United States

To: Message from the Chief of Staff[messagefromthechiefstaff@epa.gov]
From: Message from the Chief of Staff
Sent: Tue 1/23/2018 6:34:09 PM
Subject: Science Advisory Board and Office of Homeland Security personnel announcements



Colleagues,

I want to share two announcements about personnel changes in the Office of the Administrator.

Chris Zarba, the Director of EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB), has announced that he will retire from EPA on February 2, 2018. I would like to thank Chris for his many years of service to EPA, and in particular for his leadership of the SAB for the past five years. We greatly appreciate his commitment to coordinating high quality, independent science advice for EPA.

I am pleased to announce that Tom Brennan has agreed to serve as Acting Director of the SAB, effective February 5, 2018. Tom has been at EPA for 20 years and currently serves as the Chief of Staff for the Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education (OPEEE). Prior to joining OPEEE, Tom was Deputy Director of the SAB Staff Office and also held several positions in the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, including risk assessor and communications officer. Tom began his career as a consultant supporting risk assessment activities for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, and EPA. In addition to his work at EPA, Tom was also an adjunct professor at Montgomery College, where he taught environmental science and general biology from 2011-2014. Tom has B.S. and M.S. degrees in plant biology from Ohio University.

Since Dave Kling's retirement as Associate Administrator for the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) in October 2017, Mario Caraballo has provided leadership for this important EPA office. We are grateful for Mario's assistance during a very busy time over the past four months in OHS. Mario will resume his position as the Deputy Associate Administrator in OHS on January 29, 2018.

I have asked Ted Stanich, currently the Deputy Director of EPA's Criminal Investigation Division (CID) in the Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics, and Training (OCEFT), to begin serving as Acting Associate Administrator of OHS, effective January 29, 2018. Ted has served in several investigative and management positions within CID, working in Regions 3, 4, and 5, and as the Special Agent in Charge of the Washington, DC Area Office. After responding to the 9/11 attacks and anthrax attacks in 2001, he was instrumental in the creation of the National Criminal Enforcement Response Team (NCERT), one of EPA's Special Teams. He also served as the Senior Law Enforcement Intelligence Advisor to OCEFT at the FBI's National Joint Terrorism Task Force (NJTTF) for two years, during which time he was instrumental in raising awareness within the intelligence community of EPA's response role and capabilities in the event of a WMD terrorist attack. Ted holds a B.A. in Russian and a B.S. in criminal justice from Bowling Green State University, and an M.P.A. in Public Policy and Management from Ohio State University.

Thanks to Tom and Ted for stepping up as we begin the process for permanently filling these important positions.

Ryan Jackson

Chief of Staff

To: Ericksen, Doug[ericksen.doug@epa.gov]
From: U.S. EPA Media Relations
Sent: Mon 6/26/2017 11:25:57 PM
Subject: EPA to Accept Nominations for Science Boards

CONTACT:
press@epa.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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If you would rather not receive future communications from Environmental Protection Agency, let us know by clicking [here](#).
Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460 United States

To: Kreutzer, David[kreutzer.david@epa.gov]
From: Zarba, Christopher
Sent: Wed 2/1/2017 9:15:23 PM
Subject: Science Advisory Board Briefing / Discussion
[SABSO Briefing 1-24-2017.ppt](#)
[SAB Org Diagram2017.docx](#)
[Fact sheet - State Scientists.docx](#)
[Bloomberg BNA August 2015.pdf](#)
[SABCASAC Activities by AA-ship 1-25-17.doc](#)
[Upcoming Web Postings Needed 1-31-17 \(002\).docx](#)
[05-2015SenateEPWtestimony.pdf](#)
[Upcoming Web Postings Needed 1-31-17 \(002\).docx](#)

In response to the February 1st email from Donald Benton to me and other managers at EPA I am in the process of scheduling an opportunity for me to brief you on the Science Advisory Board and its mission and activities. I expect that our first discussion will be a general discussion / briefing. However if you wish to focus on one or several topics that would be fine also. I have listed some likely topics below and provided some supporting materials in the event you would like a more focused discussion. These topics are only a suggestions so feel free to add, subtract or modify the agenda for this discussion to ensure it meets your needs. The suggested topics and supporting materials are as follows:

- 1) Overview of the SAB (*SABSO Briefing, SAB Org Diagram*)
- 2) Tier I & II panel formation, panel make up, state scientists, (*Fact sheet – State Scientists, Bloomberg BNA August, Senate Testimony*)
- 3) Upcoming SAB schedule of activities and public events (*SABCASAC Activities*).
- 4) Near term issues that need a decision Web Postings, SGE Onboarding (Upcoming Web Posting).

I will reach out to you via phone and email on Thursday to get your thoughts on timing and the agenda.

I look forward to an interesting and productive discussion.

Christopher S. Zarba

US EPA Science Advisory Board

zarba.christopher@epa.gov

O (202) 564-0760

M (202) 731-6423

**Oversight of Scientific Advisory Panels and Processes at the Environmental
Protection Agency
Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate**

**Testimony of
Terry F. Yosie, President and CEO
World Environment Center**

May 20, 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to testify today on the issue of the management of scientific advisory panels at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and their role in public health and environmental decision making. I appear in a personal capacity as my employer, the World Environment Center, is a non-profit organization that conducts no advocacy activities and takes no positions on public policy issues.

My comments today will reflect several experiences. From 1981-1988 I served as the Director of EPA's Science Advisory Board during the Administration of Ronald Reagan. Between 1988-1992, I was Vice President for Health and Environment at the American Petroleum Institute and from 1999-2005 I was a Vice President at the American Chemistry Council responsible for environment, health, safety and security. During all the years of my post-government employment, up to the present time, I have actively served on a number of scientific advisory panels advising the U.S. government, including Boards and Committees of the National Academy of Sciences.

Effective management of scientific advisory processes at EPA should embody several important principles that I believe are also consistent with the law and best practices as implemented in both Republican and Democratic administrations. These principles include:

- ***The advice provided by scientific advisory committees should only be advisory in nature.*** Both the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 (that legislatively established the EPA Science Advisory Board) embody this principle. In practice, this means that advisory committee reports should be explicitly taken into account during

the policymaking process, but they are not binding. The reason for such a principle is simple and compelling: many other factors in addition to science must be taken into account in finalizing a public policy decision such as economics and implementation feasibility. Neither the professional training of scientists, nor their subsequent careers, prepares them to offer specific insight or expertise concerning these non-scientific factors.

- ***Appointments to scientific advisory panels should be made on the basis of merit rather than institutional affiliation, quotas or other factors.*** In 1982, President Ronald Reagan vetoed legislation that would have undermined this principle by requiring that appointments to EPA's Science Advisory be based on representation of specific interests rather than scientific merit. If I may quote President Reagan, "this requirement runs counter to the basic premise of modern scientific thought as an objective undertaking...the purpose of the Science Advisory Board is to apply the universally accepted principles of scientific peer review to the research conclusions that will form the basis for EPA regulations, a function that must remain above interest group politics." I believe that President Reagan's words echo across the subsequent decades and are directly relevant to the discussion we're having today.
- ***Scientists can never answer all of the scientific questions, but they can help policymakers focus on the important questions.*** I believe that EPA Administrators, members of Congress and stakeholders frequently have very unrealistic expectations about what scientists and scientific peer review can deliver. I once worked for a very distinguished EPA Administrator who was upset that EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee did not recommend a specific numerical limit for him to establish the national ambient air quality standard for particulate matter. Both environmental and industry groups frequently petition for the re-opening of scientific reviews even when no significantly new information is available. This leads to worse case outcomes such as the twenty years it took EPA to conduct its dioxin risk assessment.
- ***Most potential conflict of interest issues can be resolved by appropriate transparency—but not all of them.*** I personally would take a dim view of any scientist who refuses to disclose the source of his/her research funding or who believes there is no conflict issue in reviewing one's own published work that may have an important bearing in a risk assessment. On the other hand, I believe that scientists from industry, environmental groups and other institutions have important expertise that needs to be represented on scientific advisory panels. So long as no single interest group has disproportionate representation on an advisory committee and has representatives that

qualify for appointment based on merit, I believe the Federal Advisory Committee Act's requirement for "balanced points of view" can be effectively met.

- ***Priorities for peer review panels should remain focused on research and scientific assessment.*** Throughout the long history of peer review, executive branch policymakers, Congress, and interest groups have sometimes sought to expand the scope of scientific peer reviews beyond the scope of relevant scientific information. These have included requests for to review proposed standards in addition to the science underlying proposed standards, or recommendations that advisory panels review public comments along with scientific research and assessments. In my professional experience, these attempts at expanding the scope and priorities of the review process distort the concept and practice of scientific review, and are outside the purview of the capabilities of scientists serving on such panels.
- ***Scientists are under no obligation to serve on scientific advisory panels. Adding further non-scientific responsibilities to peer review panels will make the recruitment of qualified, independent scientists even more difficult.*** This is a continuing challenge given the many commitments that talented scientists already have. Requiring scientists to review public comments, in addition to EPA assessment documents, or to burden scientists with additional information requirements, will only further hinder the ability to recruit scientists to scientific review panels.

With these principles in mind, I have several specific comments to offer regarding S. 543. They include:

- Section 2(B) states that "at least ten percent of the membership of the Board are from State, local or tribal governments." This is similar to a provision that was the basis for President Reagan's veto of similar legislation in 1982. The proposed legislation substitutes a quota for merit as the basis for a significant percentage of advisory committee appointments. In practice, this will distort the peer review process. Let me provide an example. In 1986, the Science Advisory Board reviewed a draft EPA risk assessment to evaluate the potential health and environmental effects of stratospheric ozone depletion. The chemicals of concern at that time were chlorofluorocarbons (CFC). Various substitutes have replaced CFCs in commerce, yet some of these substitutes are now implicated in public health and environmental risks. If EPA were to ask the Science Advisory Board to review the risk assessment for any of the current substitutes, it would be required, under the proposed legislation, to recruit representatives of State, local and tribal governments for the peer review panel. There are many issues where

expertise from such constituencies is valuable and necessary, but I do not believe that their expertise in CFC substitutes is a main competency. Thus, the proposed legislation would substitute a quota for merit without added an informed perspective on the critical scientific issues under review.

- Section 2(E) states that members “may not participate in advisory activities that directly or indirectly involve review or evaluation of their own work, unless fully disclosed to the public and the work has been externally peer-reviewed.” In other words, the proposed legislation would permit scientists to review their own work. I believe this provision will result in compromising the integrity of the scientific review process—and here’s why. Many risk assessment are highly dependent upon only a very few studies published by a small number of scientists. If one of the major study authors also serves on the advisory panel reviewing a risk assessment that relies upon his/her work, how is the integrity of the process then not compromised?
- Section 3(D) of S. 543 requires the filing of a “written report disclosing financial relationships and interests” including EPA grants, contracts, etc. I believe that more extensive financial disclosures about personal investments and portfolios will greatly discourage scientists from even considering participation in advisory panels. Scientists are like you and me—they don’t want government officials having access to their private investment portfolio data. Another important disclosure factor that is not considered by the legislation is the need to report whether the scientist on an EPA advisory panel is also under contract to advise any other institution on the same issues that come before the panel for review. In addition, it’s important not only to disclose EPA grants but also grants or contracts supported by other federal agencies, private industry or other institutions.
- In reviewing public participation, S. 543 proposes that “prior to conducting major advisory activities, the Board shall hold a public information-gathering session to discuss the state of the science related to the advisory activity.” As a point of reference, the Science Advisory Board conducted approximately 60-80 annual scientific reviews during the latter period of my tenure in the Reagan Administration. Had the S. 543 language been in effect during that time, I would have been required to organize 60-80 information-gathering sessions. The question I pose to this Subcommittee is: when would I have been able to actually organize the scientific reviews for which the Science Advisory Board is constituted? S. 543 adds a new, intrusive and expensive layer of bureaucracy to the scientific review process that would result in its breakdown and paralysis and directly undermine the peer review process.

- The proposed legislation also would require that public comments during Science Advisory Board reviews “shall not be limited by an insufficient or arbitrary time restrictions.” I’ve had a great deal of professional experience in integrating public comments into the scientific review process. Public comments can provide valuable information or perspective bearing on important scientific issues, and they deserve to be heard by advisory panels. Public comments can also provide input that is not related to the purpose of the scientific review, or they can be duplicative across the various business or environmental organizations that seek formal time on the agenda. One characteristic of many public requests for comments from both industry and environmental groups is that they seek to “flood the zone.” This means that multiple organizations with a common interest will make individual requests for comments on similar issues rather than coordinating their comments. By providing unlimited time for public comments, S. 543 creates the perverse incentive of driving scientific advisory panels away from their focus on the underlying science and towards a role of referee among competing interest groups. This provision of S. 543 should be removed.

In summary, as I reviewed the provisions of S. 543, I’m having a tremendous case of déjà vu that recalls my experience as Science Advisory Board Director during President Ronald Reagan’s Administration. Then, as now, Congress proposed legislation that substituted quotas for scientific merit in the appointment of advisory committee members. Then, as now, proposed legislation would add burdensome new requirements to the operation of scientific advisory panels that compete with and diminish their ability to focus on their core purpose—to provide independent evaluation of the quality of research and the scientific basis of proposed criteria, risks assessments and proposed policies and standards. Enactment of this proposed legislation will waste of taxpayer dollars and will further divert the focus away from the critical need of ensuring that scientific panels advising the EPA deliver qualified, timely and effective scientific advice.

Source: Daily Environment Report: News Archive > 2015 > August > 08/12/2015 > Special Report > Science Policy: Bill Report Tells EPA to Suspend Advisers' Activities

155 DEN B-1
Science Policy
Bill Report Tells EPA to Suspend Advisers' Activities

By Pat Rizzuto

Aug. 11 — All reviews conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board would have to be suspended under language included in the House report accompanying the agency's fiscal year 2016 appropriations.

The report directs the EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) to develop a variety of draft policies, including one to secure that 10 percent of its members work as state or tribal scientists, and to submit them to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine before the suspension can be lifted. The SAB is the primary forum through which the agency's proposed research, draft scientific assessments and preliminary conclusions—including those that underlie regulatory decisions—are critiqued by nonagency scientists, economists and other experts.

The House Committee on Appropriations report directs the EPA to halt the board's advisory activities until the agency drafts and submits to the National Academies one or more policies addressing topics detailed in the report.

"EPA shall suspend all current and planned SAB reviews until such documents have been provided to the academy for review," the House said in House Report No. 114-170.

The board is the umbrella name for more than a dozen subcommittees that, in recent years, have reviewed draft agency documents including the "Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters" report, a proposed approach to examining impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water resources, and efforts the EPA is making to use computer modeling, high-throughput screens and other emerging toxicity testing methods to evaluate chemicals.

Specific Policies the Academies Would Review

The EPA is to draft policies describing how the advisory board will:

- ensure the quality and integrity of its scientific review process,
- convene advisory panels with at least 10 percent of the members being state and tribal scientists; and
- respond to public comments made during the board's reviews.

The EPA would have to develop an additional policy if it decides to specify financial information it could use to identify conflicts of interest or bias, the report said. In that case, the policy must address possible conflicts arising from former or current federal grants a scientist has received and public statements he or she has made, the report said.

The EPA is to submit the draft policy or policies to the National Academies for review. The academies are directed to certify to the appropriations committee that the agency's proposed policies would provide a clear, credible, objective framework under which the board would operate. The policies also must provide consistent conflict-of-interest rules and an appropriate balance of membership within SAB's advisory committees, the report said.

House Language Stands Absent Senate Objection

The report accompanies H.R. 2822, which would provide the EPA with \$7.43 billion in FY 2016. That allocation would be 13 percent less than President Barack Obama requested and almost 9 percent less than the EPA's current funding levels.

The House has not voted on the bill, but the appropriations committee approved the bill and accompanying report June 18 (118 DEN A-1, 6/19/15).

The Senate report that accompanies its appropriations bill (S. 1645) does not have any language requiring the SAB to suspend its activities or develop specific policies.

BNA Snapshot
EPA's Science Advisory Board, State Scientists

Key Developments: All reviews conducted by the EPA Science Advisory Board would be suspended under language included in the House report that accompanies the agency's fiscal year 2016 appropriations.

The EPA would have to develop policies including one to secure that 10 percent of SAB's members work as state or tribal scientists.

What's Next: Unless the Senate specifically objects to the House report language during the chambers' conference on the appropriations bills, the House requirement would stand.

"Another example of Republican efforts to derail, discredit, and slow EPA actions that go against the interests of big industry polluters."

***Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson
(D-Texas)***

Unless the Senate specifically objects to the House language and the SAB suspension is repealed in the conference report that would accompany the final funding bill, the House language stands, David Goldston told Bloomberg BNA. Goldston served retired Rep. Sherwood "Sherry" Boehlert (R-N.Y.) as chief of staff of the House Committee on Science from 2001 through 2006, and he now directs government affairs for the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"It [the report language] can't be enforced the way law is, but you ignore appropriators' instructions at your peril," Goldston said.

'Thinly Veiled Attempt to Weaken EPA.'

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas), ranking member of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee, told Bloomberg BNA by e-mail that ensuring transparency and balance in the selection of members of EPA's Science Advisory Board is worthwhile.

"That being said, this provision in the House Interior Appropriations bill is just another example of Republican efforts to derail, discredit, and slow EPA actions that go against the interests of big industry polluters," Johnson said.

"These provisions represent a thinly veiled attempt to weaken the credibility of EPA's actions by undermining the agency's scientific review process," she said.

The report language would create unnecessary hurdles that would delay the board's scientific advice, and ultimately EPA action, to protect the health and safety of every American, Johnson said.

Gina Solomon, deputy secretary for science and health at California's Environmental Protection Agency and a member of the agency's main, or "chartered," SAB, used similar language in her e-mail to Bloomberg BNA.

"The requirement to suspend the SAB's work while EPA develops a new set of policies and procedures and then wait two years to have them reviewed by the National Academy is a thinly veiled attempt to stop EPA's science-based policies from moving forward," Solomon said.

Policy 'Change' Said to Be EPA's Practice

"The House report reflects a lack of understanding of EPA's current practice. The SAB already has policies and procedures related to scientific quality and integrity, and the current process already includes an evaluation of potential bias," Solomon said.

All SAB members must currently provide information about all sources of funding, including grants, as well as public statements and positions relevant to any issue that is being discussed, she said.

These declarations are filed annually and are then updated by each SAB member prior to each meeting, relevant to the specific topic or topics of that meeting, Solomon continued.

"The policy 'change' that the House report is calling for isn't a change at all—it's EPA's current practice," Solomon said.

Goldston said "the report is written by a faction of the GOP that wants to eliminate EPA altogether."

This faction is striving to accomplish its goal through a back door requirement that, essentially, places a requirement on the agency, but deprives the Congress and the public of a full, open debate on the matter, he said.

If the language were included in a bill, the president could veto the bill, Goldston said.

Procedure Makes Removal More Difficult

Tucking the requirement into a report that accompanies a much broader bill funding multiple agencies increases the likelihood that the provision will not be removed or objected to during the legislators' conference, he said.

The NRDC does not share the committee's premise that there is something fundamentally wrong with the Science Advisory Board, but it does not object to a requirement for a National Academies review of SAB's policies, he said.

There could be merit in discussing and thereby obtaining greater clarity on issues, such as what the implication would be of guaranteeing that 10 percent of a scientific panel consisted of state and tribal scientists, he said.

Perspectives on what constitutes conflicts of interest and bias also can be debated, Goldston said.

Debating such topics makes sense, or at least an argument can be made for the value of debating those topics, Goldston said.

The report language short-circuits the congressional process, he said.

Congressional Advocates Silent

Bloomberg BNA unsuccessfully sought perspectives from congressional supporters of the report language. The House Appropriations Committee did not respond to questions.

A spokesman for Rep. Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) referred all questions to the House Appropriations Committee. Lucas introduced the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2015 (H.R. 1029) in February (38 DEN A-6, 2/26/15).

Similar to the House report, Lucas' bill would have required that at least 10 percent of the board's members be state, local or tribal government scientists.

Unlike the House report, Lucas' bill would not have suspended all SAB activities.

The House approved Lucas' bill 236-181 on March 17 (52 DEN A-14, 3/18/15).

Former ORD Directors Weigh In

A scientist and a risk assessor, each of whom served as head of the EPA's Office of Research and Development during the George W. Bush administration, offered insight into the impact suspending SAB would have. ORD does not oversee the Science Advisory Board, which is part of the EPA administrator's office, but much of the science and risk analysis work conducted by the ORD is reviewed by the board.

"Concern about the makeup of the SAB and its ad hoc panels is not new," said George Gray, director of the George Washington University Center for Risk Science and Public Health.

"Questions about disciplinary, geographic and sectoral (i.e., state, private sector, academic) balance and the issue of potential conflicts of interest have been around for a long time.

"EPA has policies about how all of these are addressed," said Gray who served as EPA's assistant administrator for research and development and a science advisor from 2005 to 2009.

"Perhaps reviewing and refining these policies and having them reviewed by academies would settle these long-standing issues," Gray said.

Paul Gilman, who served as EPA's assistant administrator for Research and Development and Science Advisor from 2002 until 2004, said the SAB had just revised its policies for membership when he arrived at the agency.

"They became the model for other federal agencies," said Gilman, who now is senior vice president and chief sustainability officer at Covanta, which owns and operates 45 energy-from-waste facilities around the world.

"Having said that, it is appropriate to scrutinize this sort of thing routinely. It is possible to analyze past membership to see if there is a systematic bias present. If there are Congressional concerns about bias, that is sufficient impetus for a review," Gilman said.

However, Gilman said, "I worry that putting all SAB activities in abeyance while that is happening could create significant delay in the outside-EPA third party review of some of the EPA's most important technical documents."

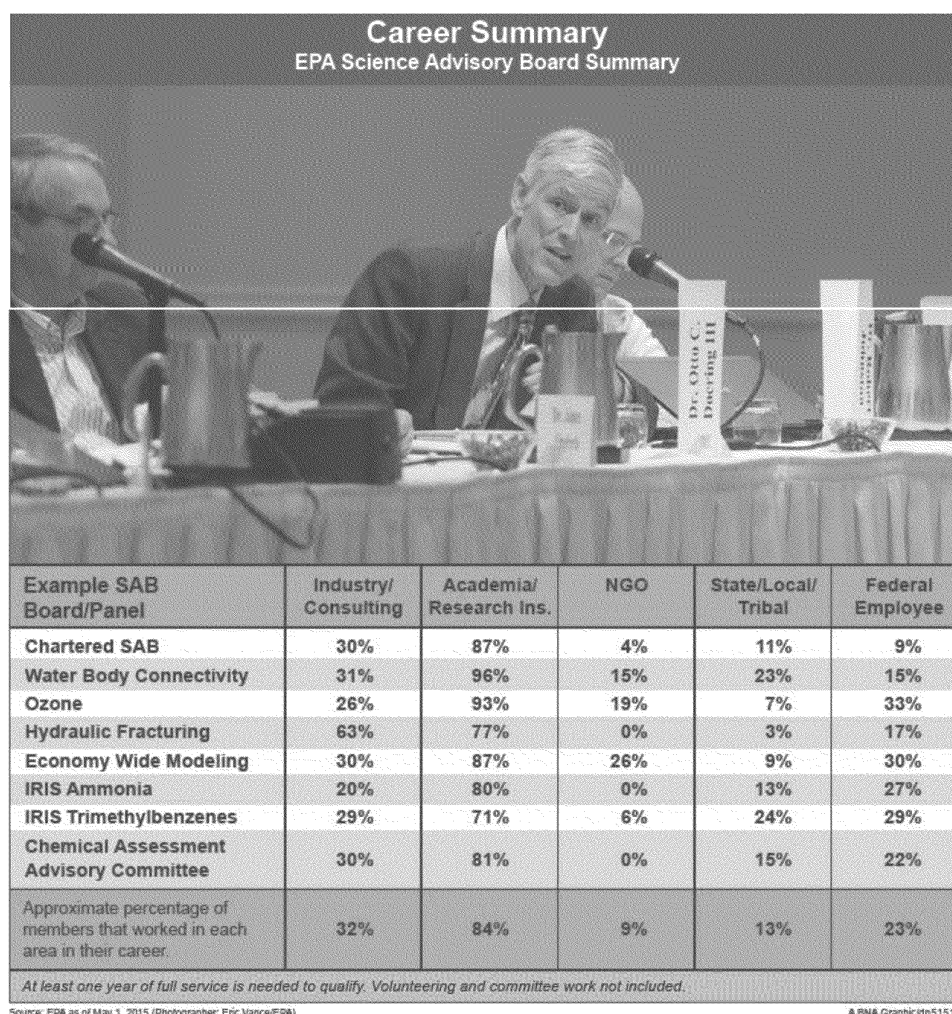
Gray echoed that sentiment.

Requiring all SAB activities be stopped until the revised policies are submitted to the academies would be disruptive, Gray said. The disruption, however, would provide a strong incentive for the agency to act quickly, he said.

Gilman said the academies has a fast-track mechanism to study issues that might minimize the delay in the SAB's work.

William Kearney, director of media relations for the National Academies, told Bloomberg BNA it is difficult to provide even a range of time and money for the requested review without more detail about what the House Appropriations Committee wants.

Committee consensus reports can take anywhere from roughly six months to two years and cost several hundred thousand dollars to more than a million dollars depending on their scope, Kearney said.



Faster methods are available, again, depending on the scope of the request and the outcome expected, Kearney said.

Representative Versus Scientific

The appropriations committee's instructions to the EPA that it should ensure state and tribal scientists constitute at least 10 percent of the Science Advisory Board prompted wide-ranging comment among those interviewed by Bloomberg BNA.

The topic also spurred debate during a May 20 Senate subcommittee hearing on the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2015 (S. 543) that also contains the 10 percent mandate (98 DEN A-16, 5/21/15)

The Senate bill has not moved since that hearing.

Christopher Zarba, director of the SAB staff office, told Bloomberg BNA the mandate would conflate the goals of two separate types of advisory committees that each provide valuable advice to the EPA.

The two types of committees are representative committees, which consist of individuals selected to reflect the views of the entity or group they represent, and scientific and technical committees, which consist of professionals selected for their particular expertise.

Of the 20 federal advisory committees that serve the EPA, 13 have representatives of groups or organizations, such as community groups, the business community, nongovernmental organizations, state and local governments and tribal governments, according to information the agency's Office of Administration and Resources Management provided Bloomberg BNA.

Examples include the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, Local Government Advisory Committee, National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology, National Environmental Justice Advisory Council and Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee.

The remaining seven panels are scientific and technical advisory committees.

These include the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, Board of Scientific Counselors, Science Advisory Board and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel.

"We love state and tribal scientists. They contribute greatly to our reviews and we use them at every opportunity. There just aren't that many to choose from," Zarba said.

"In a typical public solicitation, state and tribal scientists typically represent a few percent of the applicants. As a result if we receive 130 applicants there may only be three to five state and tribal scientists to consider. In some solicitations we only received 30 to 40 applicants and may have no state and tribal scientists to consider," he said.

Asked if he could provide a breakdown of the SAB's membership, Zarba provided Bloomberg BNA a chart that divided illustrative SAB committees into different organizations from which they came. The chart was originally prepared at the request of a member of Congress, he said.

Individuals were placed into various categories based not only on whether they were currently working in a specific position, working at a state agency for example, but whether they had worked in such an organization during their career, Zarba said.

Based on the SAB staff's calculations, about 13 percent of the committees' members represented state, local or tribal governments (see chart).

Sen. John Boozman (R-Ariz.), who introduced S. 543 and supports increasing state representation on SAB, disagreed with that approach to calculating how many state representatives served on the board.

"Counting all scientists who have performed such work at some point in their careers inflates the number. Many excellent scientists do perform work for the states. The intent of our bill is to ensure the states, which have a very important role to play in protecting our environment, are able to participate throughout the process," Boozman said in an e-mail response to questions.

State Participants' Perspectives

Solomon, from CalEPA said, the 10 percent quota for state or tribal members on the SAB will be difficult to achieve without jeopardizing the board's ability to effectively exercise scientific oversight over the agency.

"The scientific issues that come before the board cover an enormous array of scientific disciplines and areas of expertise, so the top priority is for the board to have an appropriate array of experts who can evaluate EPA's work. States and tribes will rarely have true experts in some of the very technical areas of science that would be needed most of those experts are in academia," Solomon said.

It makes sense to have state and tribal participation—as the SAB already does—but the idea of specific quotas for state representation on a science panel is a bad one, she said.

Henry Anderson, chief medical officer for the Wisconsin Division of Public Health, who serves on an SAB committee, told Bloomberg BNA state scientists have a lot of practical expertise, which the SAB will make extra effort to seek out for some panels.

Most state scientists are generalists, however, not the specialists the SAB typically needs, Anderson said.

Serving on SAB committees also takes a lot of time for state scientists, Anderson and Solomon said.

"To get two or three days off in a row is hard for a state official," Anderson said.

Scheduling challenges have prevented him from serving on some committees, he added.

Solomon said she does as much of her SAB work as possible on her own time, so that her workday is focused on serving California's taxpayers.

"Using my own time, however, only works for reviewing documents and preparing comments. Traveling to meetings is another challenge. For example, I need to go through the process of obtaining out-of-state travel authorization from the governor's office when I go to D.C. for an EPA meeting," she said.

"I usually spend the plane flights, airport time, and evenings trying to stay caught up while I'm away, but I always come back to quite a backlog," Solomon said.

"I have found it to be very difficult to make the time to serve on EPA panels, and I'm one of the lucky ones since I'm in a state with a lot of other scientific staff, so I have colleagues who can help pick up the slack when I need to go to D.C.," she said.

State Legislators Voice Concerns

The Council of State Governments West, however, is concerned that state scientists are insufficiently represented on SAB committees.

Council legislators representing Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Hawaii and Washington wrote Sens. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) and Edward Markey (D-Mass.) the day before the May 20 subcommittee hearing on S. 543.

The state legislators voiced numerous concerns about the lack of state representation, particularly, in water- and air-related advisory panels.

"States are largely underrepresented in EPA advisory panels," the state legislators wrote.

Clint Woods, executive director of the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies, said the organization is examining what appears to be a lack of state and local participation in SAB committees.

The association has nominated state scientists, but they often are not selected, Woods said.

There also seems to be a geographical imbalance, he said.

Many Western states, for example, have not had a scientist selected for SAB in years, he said.

The association is working with the EPA to "diagnose" the problem, he said.

There may be criteria the EPA uses to select scientists—such as extent to which the expert has been published in peer reviewed journals—that make it difficult for a state scientist to be selected, Woods said.

State scientists may not know how to describe their expertise in ways that best demonstrate to the EPA that they have the necessary qualifications, he said.

"Both sides can probably do a better job," Woods said. "We want to diagnose the problem correctly."

States are better represented on the agency's Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, he said. That is one of the agency's 13 representative committees.

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For More Information

The House report that accompanies the appropriations bill funding the EPA is available at <http://op.bna.com/env.nsf/r?Open=prio-9z2lqk>. A list of EPA advisory committees is available at <http://www2.epa.gov/faca/all-federal-advisory-committees-epa>. The Council of State Governments West letter is available at <http://op.bna.com/env.nsf/r?Open=prio-9z3qp5>.

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ISSN 1521-9402

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Topic:**State Scientists Serving on CASAC and SAB**

Issue: Some have expressed concern that CASAC and SAB committees and panels do not have adequate state scientist representation and that underrepresentation is in part a result of the panel formation process.

Facts / Talking Points:

- 1) SABSO greatly values state scientist's contributions to CASAC and SAB committees and panels and uses them at every opportunity.
- 2) Low numbers of state scientists apply to serve on CASAC and SAB committees and panels (typically < 10%). Low numbers of state scientists are due in part because a) they often are not encouraged by their organizations to serve and often must use their personal time to participate and b) there are much fewer state scientists when compared to the numbers of academic or industry scientists.
- 3) A 2015 assessment of the chartered SAB and panels identified that scientists with meaningful state, local and local gov experience were represented on all workgroups and averaged 13% overall. (industry 32%, academia 84%, NGO 9%, state-local-tribal 13%, federal 23%).
- 4) The majority (two-thirds) of FACs administered by EPA are representative or policy committees, rather than scientific advisory committees. As a result, selection criteria for SAB and CASAC focus on scientific credentials and how those credentials align with planned or anticipated review needs. By contrast, representative or policy committees usually are designed to represent the policy views of stakeholder groups, including state/local/tribal governments; environmental and public interest groups; trade associations; and industries.
- 5) When state (or any) scientist is not selected to serve it is primarily because their expertise is not the best match for the specific expertise needed.

Narrative:

Participation of state scientists on SAB and CASAC panels and subcommittees is now and always has been a valued part of the process. Whether recommending appointments to the SAB or CASAC, or when forming ad hoc panels under these chartered committees, a high premium is placed on ensuring diverse scientific points of view through the solicitation and selection process, including perspectives from scientists from states, academia, the private sector, and NGOs.

Supporting Materials:

- Dr. Terri Yosie SEPW testimony (written and video) of May 20, 2015
- Bloomberg August 2015 Article
- Attached summary of state scientists that have participated in recent activities

Examples of Committees/Panels with State Scientists Serving Currently (or in the Recent Past)

SAB

George Alexeeff	CA - deceased
Richard Poirot	VT - retired
Gina Solomon	CA
Robert Mace	TX

CAAC

Henry Anderson	WI
Helen Goeden	MN- resigned
Alan Stern	NJ
Melanie Marty	CA - retired
Tiffany Bredfeldt	TX

EHHC

Gloria Post	NJ
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DWC

Lloyd Wilson	NY
Craig Steinmaus	CA

CAAC-TMB

Gary Ginsberg plus CAAC members	CT
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EEC

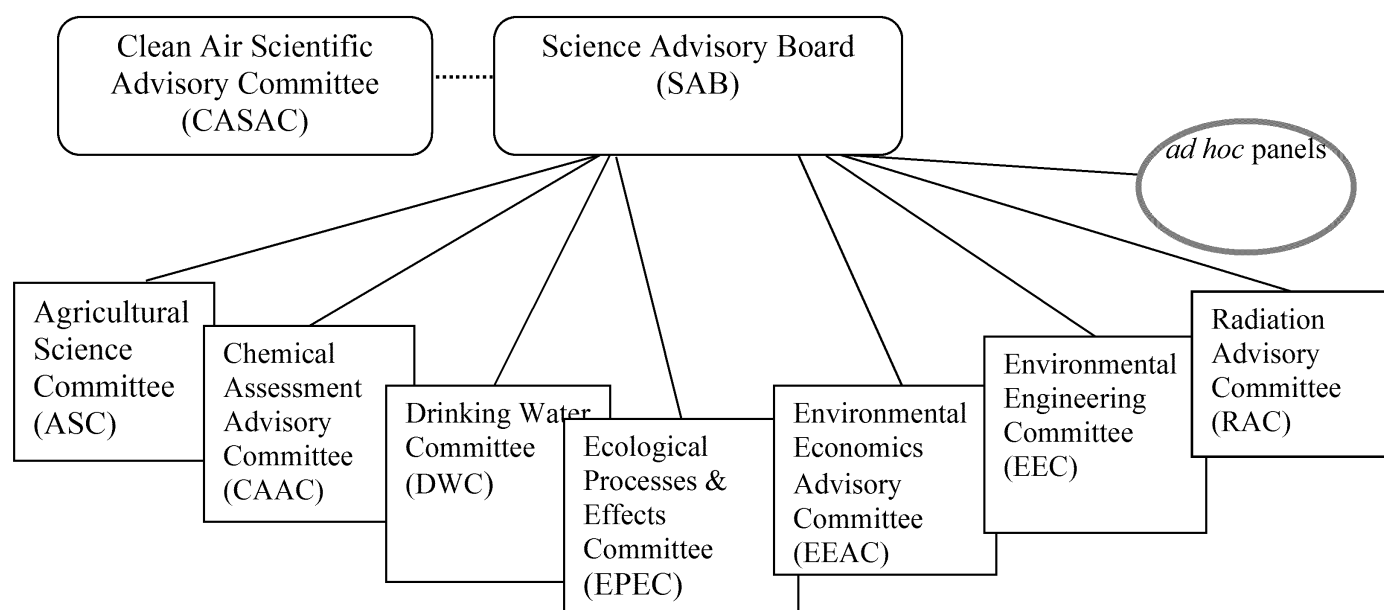
Dennis Randolph	MI
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Example of a previous review by an ad hoc panel:

Risk and Technology Review Methods Panel

Thomas Gentile	NY
Loren Raun	TX
Gary Ginsberg	CT

EPA Science Advisory Board Organization (2017)



- The SAB and CASAC are separately chartered scientific/technical advisory committees. The chair of the CASAC also is a member of the chartered SAB.
- The chartered SAB (Board)
 - Reviews the quality and relevance of the scientific and technical information being proposed or used by the EPA as the basis for agency regulations;
 - Provides science advice as requested by the EPA Administrator; and
 - Advises the agency on overall science and research strategic directions.

In meeting its overall mission, the Board:

- May utilize SAB Standing Committees, ad hoc panels or subgroups of the Board to do the preliminary work of the Board;
- Reviews and approves draft panel and committee reports before they are transmitted to the EPA Administrator (as required by the Federal Advisory Committee (FACA) and the Board's charter);
- Board members chair SAB standing committees and ad hoc committees and panels (as required under the SAB's authorizing statute, the Environmental Research, Development and Demonstration Authorization Act, ERDDAA);
- Interacts with Liaison members from other EPA science advisory committees (e.g., FIFRA SAP, BOSC, CHPAC, NACEPT, NDWAC).
- SAB standing committees
 - The SAB standing committees have served as a reservoir of institutional knowledge about the SAB and agency programs, expertise that aligns with agency program offices

and consistent advice over multiple years. The number of standing committees has varied over the years, depending on the agency's needs. With the addition of the Agricultural Science Committee in 2016, formed in response to the Agricultural Act of 2014, there currently are seven SAB standing committees.

- The Agricultural Science Committee, authorized by P.L. 133-79, will provide advice to the chartered SAB on issues before the Board that are determined to have a significant direct impact on farming and agriculture-related industries.
- The Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee coordinates SAB reviews of chemical assessments for the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS), primarily at the request of the Office of Research and Development (ORD).
- The Drinking Water Committee develops advice on the technical aspects of EPA's national drinking water standards and research program, primarily at the request of the Office of Water (OW) and Office of Research Development (ORD).
- The Ecological Processes and Effects Committee develops advice on technical issues related to EPA environmental programs and the supporting science and research to protect, sustain, and restore the health of ecosystems, primarily at the request of OW and ORD.
- The Environmental Economics Advisory Committee develops advice on the science and research regarding economic data and methods for public benefits and costs of EPA's environmental programs, primarily at the request of the National Center for Environmental Economics (NCEE) within the Office of Policy (OP).
- The Environmental Engineering Committee develops advice on risk management technologies to control and prevent pollution, primarily at the request of the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) and ORD.
- The Radiation Advisory Committee develops advice on radiation protection, radiation science, and radiation science applications, primarily at the request of the Office of Air and Radiation (OAR).

○ *Ad hoc* panels

- Conduct peer review on highly visible technical products that require multidisciplinary or specialized expertise that is not available from standing committees or augmented standing committees.

○ *Ad hoc* committees

- Serve on a longer term basis (2-3 years) than an *ad hoc* panel. These committees generally develop more than one advisory report responding to Agency requests or conduct an SAB original study.

SAB/CASAC Advisory Activities by AA-ship

Project Title	Number	Tier 1 Parent Committee	Project Status Comment	Assigned Committee or Panel	DFO
OA - OP					
Economy-wide Modeling of the Benefits and Costs of Environmental Regulation	14-01	BOARD	A face-to-face meeting of the Panel is planned for May 24, 2017 to continue development of the panel's draft report responding to the EPA charge questions.	Economy-Wide Modeling Panel	Holly Stallworth
Valuing mortality risk reductions for policy: proposed updates to valuation and income elasticity estimates	16-03	BOARD	The chartered SAB conducted a quality review of the EEAC draft report at a meeting Nov. 30, 2016, and the EEAC is currently revising the draft report in response to the quality review comments.	Environmental Economics Advisory Committee	Thomas Armitage
OAR					
Screening Methodologies to Support Risk and Technology Reviews (RTR): A Case Study Analysis	15-07	BOARD	The List of Candidates was posted for public comment, due 11-28-16, SABSO is currently reviewing ethics information for candidates and drafting the determination memo to form the panel. A tentative meeting of the panel is planned for April 2017.	Ad Hoc Panel Being Formed	Bryan Bloomer
Biogenic Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Stationary Sources - Assessment Framework	15-03	BOARD	The chartered SAB met on March 31 - April 1, 2016, in part to conduct quality review of the draft report from the Biogenic Carbon Emissions Panel. The panel met October 12 to discuss the SAB's comments on their draft report, and is currently developing re	Biogenic Carbon Emissions Panel	Holly Stallworth
Nitrogen Oxides Policy Assessment for Primary (Health-based) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)	16-08	CASAC	The CASAC and the CASAC Panel held a teleconference meeting 1-24-2017 to discuss the panel's draft report. CASAC approved the report, subject to revisions discussed during the meeting. A final report is being prepared for transmission to the EPA Administ	CASAC Oxides of Nitrogen Primary NAAQS Review Panel (2013-2016)	Aaron Yeow
Sulfur Oxides Risk and Exposure Assessment Planning Document for Primary (Health-based) National Ambient Air	17-02	CASAC	A meeting of the CASAC Sulfur Oxides Panel is planned for March 20-21, 2017, to begin developing advice in response to the EPA charge questions for the draft REA Planning Document and second draft	CASAC Sulfur Oxides Panel	Aaron Yeow

SAB/CASAC Advisory Activities by AA-ship

Quality Standards (NAAQS)			ISA.		
Efforts to update the Environmental Radiation Protection Standards for Nuclear Power Operations (40 CFR part 190)	15-15	BOARD	On November 10, 2015, the committee was briefed on EPA's ANPRM to consider revising the Environmental Radiation Protection Standards for Nuclear Power Operations. The agency may ask for an advisory in FY2017.	Radiation Advisory Committee	Edward Hanlon
Oxides of Nitrogen and Sulfur Risk and Exposure Assessment Planning Document for Secondary (Welfare-based) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)	17-04	CASAC	A Panel meeting is planned for May 24-25, 2017, in RTP to review the NOxSOx Secondary draft ISA and draft REA Planning Document. A copy of the draft ISA is expected to be available in February.	Secondary NAAQS Review Panel for Oxides of Nitrogen and Sulfur	Thomas Armitage
ORD					
Sulfur Oxides Integrated Science Assessment for Primary (Health-based) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (Second External Review Draft)	17-01	CASAC	A meeting of the CASAC Sulfur Oxides Panel is planned for March 20-21, 2017, to begin developing advice in response to the EPA charge questions for the draft REA Planning Document and second draft ISA.	CASAC Sulfur Oxides Panel	Aaron Yeow
IRIS Assessment for Hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine (RDX)	15-12	BOARD	The CAAC Augmented for RDX held a teleconference on Nov. 17, 2016, to discuss the EPA charge questions, and a face-to-face meeting on Dec. 12-14, 2016, to begin developing responses to the charge questions. A follow-up meeting is planned for April.	Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee (CAAC) Augmented for the RDX Review	Diana Wong
Oxides of Nitrogen and Sulfur Integrated Science Assessment (First External Review Draft) for Secondary (Welfare-based) National Ambient Air Quality Standards	17-03	CASAC	A Panel meeting is planned for May 24-25, 2017, in RTP to review the NOxSOx Secondary draft ISA and draft REA Planning Document. A copy of the draft ISA is expected to be available in February.	Secondary NAAQS Review Panel for Oxides of Nitrogen and Sulfur	Thomas Armitage
IRIS Assessment for Ethyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (ETBE)	15-11	BOARD	The List of Candidates was posted for public comment, due 1-23-2017. SABSO is currently collecting and reviewing ethics information on candidates and drafting the determination memo for	Standing Committee Augmented with Additional Expertise Being Formed	Shaunta Hill

SAB/CASAC Advisory Activities by AA-ship

			the CAAC Augmented with Experts.		
IRIS Assessment for tert-Butyl Alcohol (tert-butanol)	15-10	BOARD	The List of Candidates was posted for public comment, due 1-23-2017. SABSO is currently collecting and reviewing ethics information on candidates and drafting the determination memo for the CAAC Augmented with Experts.	Standing Committee Augmented with Additional Expertise Being Formed	Shaunta Hill
OW					
Scoping and Approach for Revising Guidelines for Devising Numerical Water Quality Criteria to Protect Aquatic Life	16-07	BOARD	The List of Candidates was posted for public comment, due Jan. 31, 2017. SABSO will begin requesting and reviewing ethics information for candidates and drafting the determination memo.	Ecological Processes and Effects Committee Augmented for Review of Aquatic Life Water Quality Criteria Methods	Iris Goodman
REGION 05					
Lake Erie Nutrient Targets and Adaptive Management	16-02	BOARD	The panel held a teleconference meeting on October 13, 2016, to complete discussions of its draft advisory report. The panel report is being finalized for transmission to the chartered SAB for quality review, planned for March 2017.	Lake Erie Phosphorus Objectives Review Panel	Thomas Armitage